



**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

**With the participation of the
Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**



Training on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

7-9 September 2004

Amman

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Introduction and main findings

Over 40 people attended a three-day training workshop on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Participants included Iraqi government representatives, from the northern, central and southern Iraq, local NGOs and national UN staff from Iraq, as well as UN and NGO staff in Jordan. This workshop follows a similar event held in November 2003 in Amman, which primarily targeted staff members of international organisations working in Iraq.¹

The workshop is part of a series of activities implemented by the UN Cluster for IDPs and Refugees (Cluster 8)² to respond to the protection needs of IDPs in Iraq. The workshop follows the finalization of draft strategic plan for IDPs in Iraq, which recommends that training on international protection standards be organised for government officials and implementing partners. The workshop is also meant to prepare a national conference on IDPs in Iraq, to be held at the end of 2004, by raising awareness on the Guiding Principles among all relevant stakeholders, in particular authorities, prior to the conference.

Participants expressed their interest to learn more about the Guiding Principles, to find concrete solutions for the displaced on the ground, and to improve coordination and cooperation at all levels. The main conclusions reached during the workshop are summarized below:

1. Over one million people remain displaced in Iraq, some for over 30 years. There is however no accurate figure of internal displacement in the country, due to the length of displacement, the multiple causes and patterns of displacement. While some people have been displaced for over 30 years, new displacement continues to occur due to insecurity, particularly in central and southern Iraq.
2. The primary responsibility to respond to the needs of the displaced lies with the Iraqi authorities, particularly the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM). The Ministry has offices in central and southern Iraq and exchanges information with relevant authorities of the northern Governorates. The Ministry is currently working on a mapping exercise to assess the scope of internal displacement. It has collaborated with the UN to finalize a strategy to respond to the needs of the displaced in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. At the UN level, Cluster 8 is responsible for IDPs and refugees. The Cluster is supported and advised by the IDP Working Group. Measures have been taken to improve coordination between MoDM and Cluster 8, as well as between Jordan- and Kuwait-based actors.
3. Iraq is party to the major conventions which are the sources of the Guiding Principles. It has not developed so far specific legislation to protect IDPs. The Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period (TAL) is consistent with

¹ For the report of the November 2003 workshop, see:

http://www.idpproject.org/training/reports/Amman_workshop_Nov_2003.pdf

² Members of the UN Cluster 8 include: UNHCR; IOM, UNAMI, UNOPS, UNHABITAT, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, OHCHR, FAO, ILO and UNIDO. The Cluster Task Manager is UNHCR and the Deputy is IOM.

the Guiding Principles and includes provisions which are relevant for the protection the displaced in Iraq. It could be useful to review the national legislation to identify the legal provisions especially relevant for IDPs and assess their compatibility with the Guiding Principles.

4. The majority of IDPs face pressing humanitarian needs, particularly with regard to shelter, access to basic services (water, sanitation, health) and education. Many displaced people live in camps, military bases or other inadequate temporary shelters. In these settlements, the lack of access to water and sanitation facilities may cause malaria, cholera and typhoid among displaced communities. IDPs also often lack the personal documentation required to access services, as well as food ration cards allowing them to receive humanitarian assistance. The self-reliance capacity of most IDPs in Iraq is limited, particularly among female-headed households. Child labor is a common coping mechanism for displaced and other vulnerable families.

5. Despite insecurity, a wide range of UN agencies and NGOs, both international and local, conduct assistance programmes benefiting IDPs in Iraq. Following presentations by World Vision International, IRC and DRC, participants mentioned the relevance of legal assistance programmes, to help to obtain various personal documents, such as marriage certificates and food ration cards.

6. The majority of IDPs have expressed their will to return to their community of origin and exercise their right to recover their lost properties. The draft IDP strategy highlights the return home of IDPs in conditions of safety and dignity as a durable solution. Return should be voluntary and IDPs should be consulted and associated with the planning of the return process. However, local integration should also be considered as an option since many people have been displaced for decades. For example, support to the local integration of IDPs has been provided by the Danish Refugee Council in a pilot project implemented in the Diyala governorate. Authorities have also presented their programmes in support to return.

7. Assistance activities benefiting IDPs risk create tensions between them and local communities facing similar needs. In line with the do-no-harm approach, programmes should be implemented on a community-based and include vulnerable groups of local communities among their beneficiaries. For example, the above mentioned support to victims of secondary displacement in the Diyala governorate by the Danish Refugee Council also included Kurdish returnees among the beneficiaries.

8. International agencies have designed programmes to support the capacity of IDPs and returnees to integrate in the community through humanitarian assistance and development programmes. Among future plans, three major projects have been designed to support the integration of IDPs in return and resettlement areas, with a total budget of about 43 million US\$. Authorities and NGOs are invited to inform international agencies about areas and groups in needs of integration support.

9. The newly established Iraq Property Claims Commission (IPCC) is mandated to redress injustices created from appropriation and distribution of properties due to the actions or policies of the former regime, and examines claims dating post July 17, 1968.

So far, 19,000 claims have been filed. Participants expressed concerns regarding the deadline to submit claims fixed for 30 June 2005. Several also commented on how slow the process is, and on the need to inform better the Iraqi population about the possibility to file claims, notably through mass information campaigns.

1. The Guiding Principles: genesis and legal sources

The workshop opened with a brief review by the Norwegian Refugee Council of the response of the international community to the crisis of internal displacement. In view of the dramatic upsurge of internal displacement crises in the early 1990s, the United Nations (UN) Commission for Human Rights requested the UN Secretary-General to appoint his representative on IDPs in 1992. The appointment went to Dr. Francis Deng, a Sudanese Diplomat, who immediately reviewed the scope of the crisis and assessed the adequacy of existing mechanisms to address it. Upon the request of the Commission for Human Rights, the Representative also studied to extent to which international law provides coverage for the internally displaced people. Based on a detailed legal survey, the Representative compiled the Guiding Principles, which consolidate and restate existing international human rights and humanitarian law relevant to internal displacement. The document reviews all the rights of IDPs and the authorities' responsibilities during the various phases of displacement, including prevention from arbitrary displacement, protection during displacement and durable solutions. The Commission for Human Rights has welcomed the Guiding Principles as "an important tool for dealing with situations of internal displacement"³, while an increasing number of agencies, regional and subregional organisations, as well as states have used them as a standard.

The Guiding Principles are based on three pillars of international law: international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law by analogy. These bodies of law can be found in both conventions and treaties ratified by states, as well as international customary law. Iraq is a party to most major international human rights and humanitarian law instruments, including:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), *ratified in 1976*
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), *ratified in 1976*
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), *ratified in 1970*
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), *ratified in 1986*
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), *ratified in 1986*
- The Four Geneva Conventions (Common Article 3), *ratified in 1956*

Refugee law principles have also been incorporated into the Guiding Principles, based on the analogy existing between the plight and protection needs of IDPs and those of refugees. Iraq is not a state party to the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees,

³ Resolution 2004/55, Internally Displaced Persons, E/CN.4/RES/2004/55

but several of its key provisions, such as the principle of non-refoulement, are considered to be customary law.

Participants were asked to identify which articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have used as sources for selected Guiding Principles. They were also invited to find correspondences between the Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period (8 March 2004). There was an agreement that the Law of Administration was compliant with the Guiding Principles, but participants recommended that a thorough legal review of the compliance of the Iraqi national framework with the Guiding Principle should be undertaken.

2. Who is an IDP?

The IDP definition: Participants were presented with the definition of an internally displaced person according to the Guiding Principles. According to this definition, internally displaced persons are:

"persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border."

This definition highlights two main features of internal displacement. First, internally displaced persons are displaced within their own country, unlike refugees who have left their country to seek protection elsewhere. Second, internal displacement is a result of coercion which can be caused by a variety of circumstances, as suggested in the definition. However, economic migrants are generally not considered IDPs unless they fled from their homes as a result of economic injustice and marginalization tantamount to systematic violations of economic rights.

IDPs in Iraq: There is an agreement among the humanitarian community that two distinct periods of internal displacement in Iraq, before and after the US-led intervention in 2003, can be identified.

The caseload of "*old*" displacement encompasses those displaced under the regime of Saddam Hussein, mainly as a result of discriminatory policies, wars and policies of collectivization or devillagization during the past 30 years.

In northern Iraq, entire Kurdish communities were expelled as a result of a deliberate policy of displacement, from the "devillagisation campaign" in the 1960s to the 1988 Anfal campaign. Kurds, Turkmen and Assyrians also fell victims of the government "Arabisation" campaign. Furthermore, Kurds communities were forced to flee from their homes as a result of the armed conflict between the two Kurdish parties and between the PKK and the Turkish military forces in the mid-1990s. Internally displaced people in northern governorates also include those Kurds who were expelled to Iran in the 1970s and have returned to northern Iraq since then. Finally, Iraqis of all ethnic and religious

backgrounds left areas under government control and moved to northern Iraq because of their opposition to the former regime.

A considerable number of people displaced by the previous regime are also located in southern Iraq. Marsh Arabs who have been displaced from their traditional areas of residence since 1992 have remained displaced in the south, as well as people displaced as a result of political persecution or previous armed conflicts, in particular the Iran/Iraq war. Smaller numbers of Arabs displaced from their places of residence in the centre have also been recorded.

Causes behind these displacements are no longer present but assistance is still required to enable these IDPs to find durable solutions, in particular with regard to shelter or self-reliance.

"New" displacement refers to forced movements of civilians which have been taken place in Iraq since the fall of the previous regime in April 2003. Current conflicts and situations of violence have forced many to leave their homes at least temporarily, especially in central and southern Iraq. Most of them find temporary refuge with their extended families and tend to return soon after the cessation of hostilities. Those who have returned have endured considerable material and human losses and often remain out of reach of humanitarian assistance. A small number of civilians are also still unable or unwilling to return. The fall of Saddam Hussein has also opened the door to the return of Kurdish and Turkman IDPs to their former home areas below the "green line" in central Iraq but many have remained unable to find durable shelter solutions. Another pattern of displacement typical of the post-Saddam period affects mainly Arabs who were encouraged by the previous regime to settle in Kurdish areas in Tameem, Ninewa and Dyala governorate. The return of Kurdish communities to these areas has triggered movements among the Arab population (secondary displacement). They have no support networks and face high levels of vulnerability. They have no place where to go and are compelled to live in public buildings. It is uncertain whether Arab displaced will be willing to return to the areas they originate from or will prefer to stay in areas where they were settled by the former regime.

Although not internally displaced as such, sizeable groups of economic migrants have moved to urban areas and occupy public or private buildings. The deteriorating economic situation in 2003 and 2004 affects a growing number of people, who risk being overlooked by assistance programmes.

There continues to be *new reports of internal displacement* in Iraq, after the military intervention, particularly in southern areas, as a result of ongoing conflicts and violence. Also, the breaking of dikes along the Euphrate banks between Al-Tar town (Nasriya) and Al-Mudeina (Basra), forced several families to relocate along the road between the two cities, with UNHCR assistance (March 2004).

In total, internally displaced people may be up to one million in Iraq, although reliable figures are not available. Identifying who is an IDP in Iraq remains a challenge for various reasons:

- Some families are successfully settled in areas of displacement, but may still claim lost or destroyed property/lands or compensation.
- Displaced families have grown threefold in the last thirty years and their farms and lands they owned and are now returning to are insufficient to support them.
- Some families have partially settled in the new communities and face lack of employment and education opportunities, access to clean water and health services to equal degrees as the rest of the community.
- Internal displacement has coincided with a process of urbanization in the country. The return of IDPs to their home areas will deprive them of new opportunities available in urban centres. IDPs have also adapted to their new community and changed their lifestyle.
- Deteriorating insecurity and economic degradation sometimes prompted the entire clans or extended families to move to another area, in which case the ties with the place of residence are broken.
- Some displaced families never owned any property and were displaced from rented lands or homes.
- Some families voluntarily moved into collective towns, seeking better living conditions
- Displaced people in public buildings often live mixed with urban poor and homeless people.

3. Protection of IDPs

Standards and responsibilities: Case studies, drawn from testimonies collected in Iraq were given to participants to identify some of the concrete concerns faced by IDPs in the daily life. It was agreed that the majority of IDPs face pressing humanitarian needs, particularly with regard to shelter, access to basic services (water, sanitation, health) and education. Many displaced people live in camps, military bases or other inadequate temporary shelters. In these settlements, the lack of access to water and sanitation facilities may cause malaria, cholera and typhoid among displaced communities. IDPs also face risks of evictions from the shelters they occupy. IDPs often lack the personal documentation required to access services, as well as food ration cards allowing them to receive humanitarian assistance. The self-reliance capacity of most IDPs in Iraq is limited, particularly among female-headed households. Child labor is a common coping mechanism for displaced and other vulnerable families.

In smaller groups, participants were asked to identify the Guiding Principles at stake for each of the concerns identified, to identify the actors in charge of addressing these concerns, and to suggest activities which can be implemented in response. It was acknowledged that state authorities were the primary actor responsible for responding to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs, but that they also need external support to face their obligations. Despite insecurity, a wide range of UN agencies and NGOs, both international and local, conduct assistance programmes benefiting IDPs in Iraq. Following presentations by World Vision International, IRC and DRC, participants mentioned the relevance of legal assistance programmes, to help to obtain various personal documents, such as marriage certificates and food ration cards.

The draft Strategic Plan for IDPs in Iraq: UNHCR presented the draft Strategic Plan for IDPs in Iraq, which reflects a coordinated approach of all actors concerned with regard to the protection of IDPs.

Rationale and principles: International agencies of the United Nations Country Team have coordinated their efforts to define a common strategy to respond to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs and search for durable solutions.

Cluster 8 (Refugees and IDPs), comprising all relevant international agencies of the UN Country Team, initiated a broad consultation process among all relevant actors. A strategy planning meeting was held in February 2004. Consultations on the draft IDP strategy took place in June, followed by specific consultations with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration.

The draft strategy is based on the assessment that IDPs continue to face serious protection problems as a result of their displacement. It identifies a series of principles underpinning its approach to the protection of IDPs and the search for durable solutions. It restates the primary responsibility of the state of Iraq, and in particular the Ministry of Displacement and Migration, for the protection of IDPs and the implementation of durable solutions. It also stresses that the Guiding Principles should be adhered to by all relevant actors. It reaffirms the right of IDPs to return voluntarily in safety and dignity and participate in the decision-making processes. The strategy will focus on supporting the achievements of effective, durable and realistic solutions to the different categories of IDPs, with due consideration given to cultural and religious values and traditions. Finally, the strategy recommends that the international community continue to support the search for solutions through financial resource, technical advice and coordination.

The objective of the strategy is to promote a common approach among all relevant actors to the prevention of further displacement and the provision of continued assistance and support to people in displacement. The strategy insists that host communities should be included in the design and implementation of related programmes. Regarding the search for durable solutions to displacement, the strategy recommends that particular attention be given to ensure that return or resettlement are based on a voluntary decision making. It also addresses the problem of secondary displacement, property restitution and housing, as well as the special women's needs. Common approaches are also recommended with regard to the strengthening of civil society and the use of advocacy.

In line with the "do no harm" principle, the draft Strategic Plan ensures that the response to internal displacement does not have negative impact on other groups or in other sectors. In particular, the United Nations and the international community have worked to design assistance which does not discriminate against other needy categories of the population, thereby avoiding aggravating tensions between the groups and preventing further displacement. The Strategic Plan is supportive of return when security and other conditions are in place. It aims at meeting realistic expectations of IDPs and is within financial and material limits of international organisations. Also, assistance programmes should be mindful of cultural and religious values and does not contradict international norms and standards.

The approach by region: Humanitarian actors agree that IDPs and host communities in southern Iraq often have the same needs. Therefore activities should be community-based. Although most of the needs can be addressed through development programmes, there are pockets of IDPs that are more vulnerable and require specific and targeted assistance. Water is identified as a priority concern. There is a need for strengthened advocacy and support to the national authorities to develop policy guidance.

In central Iraq, the situation is particularly complex due to the ethnic lines along which displacement has occurred historically and is currently occurring. The return, reintegration and resettlement of IDPs in the region are also a highly political one that requires the leadership and guidance of the national authorities. Return is only considered feasible to areas where further displacement will not result, where there are no unresolved property disputes and where a risk analysis is carried out. The focus of the Strategic Plan is primarily on the secondary displaced and returnees who have returned and remain without a solution. Both groups are primarily residing in abandoned public buildings or with host communities.

Four key issues emerge as priority areas of intervention across all locations and groups of IDPs in the north: 1) services (availability and access), including shelter which is the highest priority; 2) legal support; 3) reintegration assistance and 4) advocacy.

4. The national and regional authorities

At the national level: Representatives from the Ministry of Displacement and Migration briefed participants on the structure and objectives of the Ministry. Its objectives are to coordinate monitoring, protection and assistance, develop policy and implement programmes to displaced population, including IDPs. Beside the central office in Baghdad, the MoDM has created sub-offices in Basra, Amara and Diyala. Their mission is to ensure local monitoring and protection of populations of concern to the Ministry, enable the planning and coordination of proper humanitarian and durable reintegration assistance to IDPs and refugee returnees.

The Ministry has taken a series of steps to enhance monitoring and coordination activities with other partners (UNHCR, IOM, UNOPS and NGOs). It aims at avoiding duplication of assessment, ensure that areas currently not covered are included in programmes, and that the monitoring process is standardize.

Participants were informed that the Ministry supported the draft Strategic Plan. Among the measures taken by the Ministry was the creation of an IDP and refugee returnees monitoring cell. Efforts have also been made to enhance the management of emergency situations. Collaboration with the UN on contingency planning has been initiated, leading to the creation of an inter-ministerial emergency committee, including the ministries of health, interior, human rights, environment, and the MoDM. International organisations such as the ICRC, IFRC, IRCS, NCCI and NGOs have also been included in the work of the committee, while it is planned to strengthen the liaison between the UN emergence response working group in Amman to the committee via teleconferences. The committee was actively involved in the emergency response to the crisis in Najaf in August 2004, in

particular through the implementation of food distribution to IDPs. The Ministry has also undertaken advocacy efforts with regard to other chronic emergencies, such as in Kirkuk, Diyala, and Basra.

The Ministry has worked actively to support durable solutions to displacement in Iraq. A working group on durable solutions, including the MoDM, the ministries of finance, housing, agriculture, municipality and public works, has been created. Advocacy on the shortage of housing and the situation of 80,000 IDPs and returnee families currently living in camps or public buildings has also been undertaken.

The Ministry currently lacks the resources to perform its mandate adequately and needs the support of the international community. It has made recommendations to UN agencies and NGOs towards a strengthened coordination in various sectors. In particular, it suggests a standardization of various activities, such as legal advice centres as well as humanitarian and return/integration assistance. Coordination and assistance planning should also be reinforced to ensure that geographical areas, such as central regions, are not overlooked, or specific sectors, such as community mobilization, are not neglected. The Ministry recommends that current monitoring activities are more oriented towards return and resettlement.

The collection of data on internal displacement was also discussed during the workshop. A ministerial official highlighted the lack of standard format used by existing databases. The MoDM has therefore created a new structure, the IDP and refugee returnees overview and mapping, to centralize existing information. While building upon achievement of existing systems (in particular the IOM and UNOPS integrated database), this project reviews the level of compatibility between existing systems and has developed a returnee monitoring form with various partners. Maps showing the dissemination of IDPs in selected governorates were presented to the participants. The Ministry calls upon all actors in the field to share their information with its mapping system so that more maps of this type can be established.

At the regional level: Participants were also briefed about the activities of relevant structures dealing with IDPs in the regions. In northern governorates, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Cooperation (MOHAC) based in Erbil, and the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR), located in Suleymaniya, are the primary actors in charge of the protection of IDPs and returnees. With regard to protection-related activities, these ministries have focused their efforts on demining, awareness-raising and legal protection. Assistance programmes have focused on access to public services (water and sanitation, electricity, education, health), the provision of financial support, non-food items and the development of income-generating activities. Attention has also been given to IDPs and returnees in search of durable solutions, through shelter programmes and the allocation of land.

The representative of the MoDM branch office in Basra shared information on his activities. Despite the lack of capacity within this one-man structure, the branch office has been able to develop coordination activities with all relevant actors, including local authorities, international organisations, NGOs and IDP/returnee committees. The office has been successful in helping IDPs in accessing public services, personal documents, or

the IPCC. It has also advocated among NGOs for more attention to returnee communities.

5. The search for durable solutions

The Draft Strategic Plan underscores the need for a national policy on displacement, return and resettlement, to be developed as a matter of priority by the new sovereign Iraqi government. Pending such a plan, various measures and initiatives have already been taken to enforce the right of IDPs to return home or resettle voluntarily in conditions of safety and dignity. Some of them were presented and discussed during the workshop.

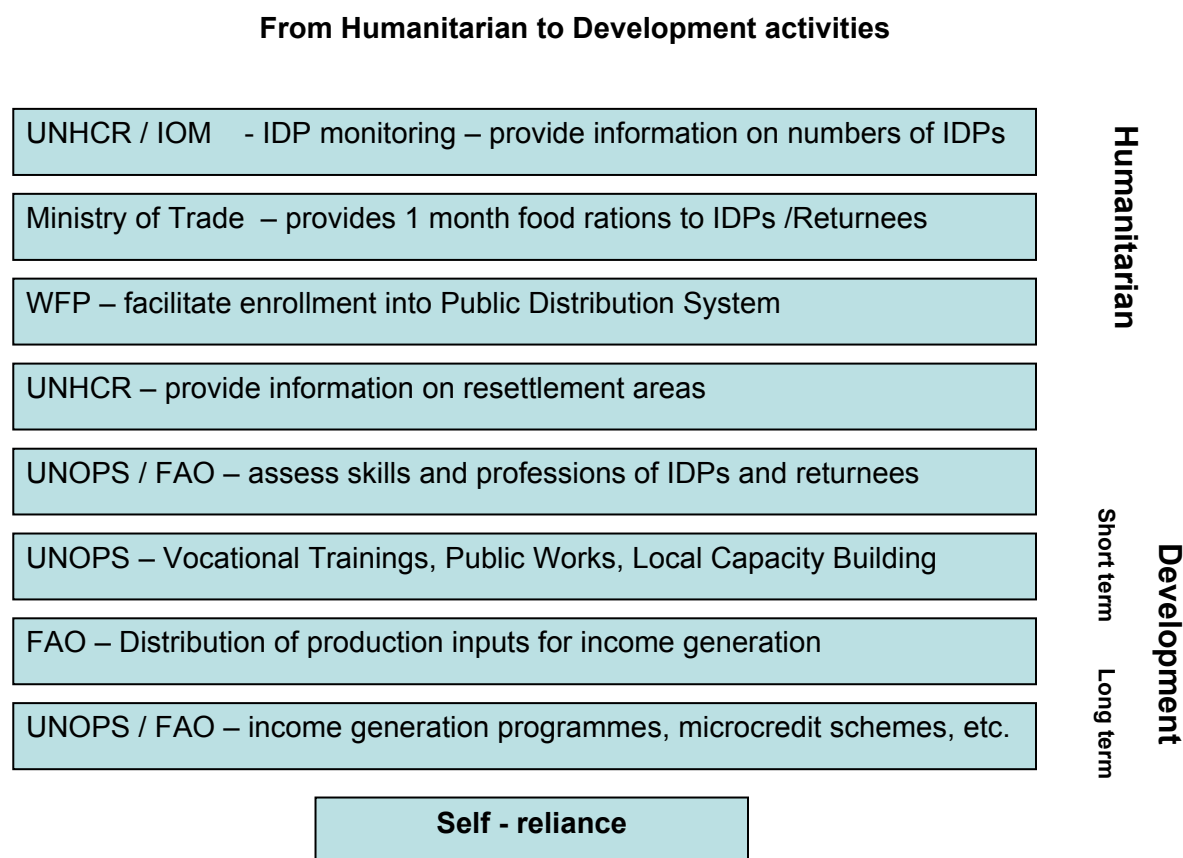
A pilot project of integration in the Diyala governorate: The Danish Refugee Council presented a pilot project it implemented to respond to the problem of secondary displacement in the Diyala governorate (central Iraq). This governorate has one of the highest numbers of post-conflict IDPs, with approximately 6,900 families or 52,000 individuals. Almost 2,800 IDP families are accommodated in looted military camps, public buildings, or mud-houses villages. The remaining IDPs are hosted by relatives and friends. Humanitarian needs of these IDPs include shelter, water sanitation, health, education and protection. The programme developed by the Danish Refugee Council first aimed at improving IDPs' daily living conditions in the short term. This has been done through the provision of adequate shelter, access to water (water projects and trucking), improvement of sanitation facilities, rehabilitation of health and education facilities, and distribution of NFIs. Soft forms of protection also can include advocating for the suspension of eviction and monitoring and reporting on discrimination. By rehabilitating military barracks where IDPs are sheltered, the Danish Refugee Council aims at providing decent living conditions to the families already accommodated and providing alternative accommodation to evicted families.

This project raised various issues which DRC had to take into account in its design and implementation. For instance, it was necessary to obtain the agreement of national authorities on the use of the buildings as temporary accommodation for IDPs. DRC had also to develop criteria for the selection of beneficiaries and minimum standards for the rehabilitation, while being aware of the risks of creating pull factors among other IDPs or vulnerable communities.

The DRC has endeavoured to ensure that its programme complies with the search for durable solutions as defined in the Guiding Principles. In particular, return, local integration and resettlement have to be implemented based on a voluntary decision of the displaced people. In certain situations, the local integration of IDPs is one of the possible durable solutions, such as for the victims of secondary displacement in central Iraq. The local integration will only be facilitated after a joint situation analysis has been conducted. This analysis should review the situation of the displaced community, including its needs, desired solutions and coping strategies, and the situation of the host community, its needs and its absorption capacity. DRC's pilot project has also addressed needs relating to land, building materials, self-reliance capacity and community facilities.

Joint support to self-reliance: International agencies have coordinated their efforts to support the self-reliance capacity of IDPs upon return or resettlement. In so doing, relevant international agencies, both humanitarian and development-oriented, have ensured that their response is community-based. Beside the development of support programmes, agencies ensure that inputs are provided to sustain initial livelihoods activities. In the long-term, the capacity of local government and non-governmental institutions to care for the most vulnerable groups will also be developed or strengthened.

Participants were briefed on the activities conducted so far by international agencies with regard to self reliance. The following table gives an overview of the continuum between activities designed to answer humanitarian needs and development-oriented programmes towards ensuring the long-term self-reliance of returnees or resettling people.



Mr. Lakis Papastavrou, FAO, also provided information on three major projects to be implemented by various international NGOs in the future.

1. UNIDO/FAO – The Promotion of Cottage Industry in Rural and Urban Areas
This project will address poverty alleviation by increasing household incomes of vulnerable groups through introducing them, particularly women and women headed households, to small scale income generating cottage activities. Beneficiaries will include

vulnerable rural farming families, in particular groups composed of IDPs, refugees and returnees. (Budget: 5,013,000.00 US\$)

2. FAO – Assessment, Emergency Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Community Irrigation Schemes and Restoration of Water Supply in Rural Areas

Beneficiaries of this project will include 30 vulnerable communities with an estimated total of 1250-1500 farming families living in and around the areas suffering from a lack of drinking water. (Budget: 17,000,000.00 US\$)

3. UNOPS/UNHCR – Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Iraqi Refugees

The objectives of this project are to create conditions for sustainable return and reintegration of 3,000 IDP families by addressing the issues of housing, community public services, economic well being and the capacity of local government institutions. (Budget: US\$ 20,270,820.00)

Participants were invited to contact international agencies in charge of these programmes to inform them about areas or groups in need of support

The Iraq Property Claims Commission (IPCC): Mr. Brian Ericksen, senior consultant at the US Mission in Baghdad, gave a briefing on the status of the Iraq Property Claims Commission (IPCC). The IPCC was created by the Transitional Administrative Law, agreed to by the Iraqi Governing Council and signed into law on January 15, 2004. It is seen as the way to redress injustices created from wrongful appropriation and distribution of properties due to the actions or policies of the former regime.

As of October 2004, all governorates in Iraq have IPCC offices, including Kirkuk, which has the largest number with four offices. Regional Commissions have been established with adjudicators, trained and appointed to be able to decide claims. Up to 19,000 claims have already been filed. The Commission is reviewing cases in order to start making decisions once a compensation plan has been established. An inter-ministerial working group has been established to work on the issue of compensation, including options such as monetary grants or soft loans. The IPCC has also organised a Public Information Department, which has started running advertisements in newspapers, radio and TV. The head of the IPCC Suhail Al-Hashimi has formed a working group to address the special needs of the area and work on proving immediate solutions. These include better communication on the role of IPCC in assisting IDP's claims, support to the offices, and working to address the immediate area needs.

Some participants highlighted that IDPs and returnees were still not sufficiently informed about the mechanisms and procedures in place to exercise their right to recover lost properties. It was also suggested to use other channels to disseminate this information, since many IDPs do not have access to mass media.

Participants were briefed about continued and future actions of the Commission. The Commission will first endeavoured to make decisions on uncontested cases within the next month, while the larger work on adjudicating on contested claims is expected to take several months to begin. Given IPCC's newness, it will continue to need assistance from international organisations, particularly in the areas international mass claims reception

and coordination, public information, the development of databases, the best practice recommendations.

Methodology

The workshop was funded by UNHCR and IOM, including the cost implied by the participation of the two trainers from the Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council. The agenda of the workshop was prepared in close consultation between the Global IDP Project and the members of the IDP working group, comprising UNHCR, IOM, UNAMI, UNOPS, HABITAT and NGOs. It was mainly based on the modules designed by the Global IDP Project, which provide a comprehensive review of the GP. Case studies, drawn from reports and testimonies about the situation of IDPs in Iraq, were used to present these modules interactively. Each module was followed by related presentations by representatives of agencies or institutions involved in the response to internal displacement in Iraq (see agenda). These presentations gave participants the opportunity to discuss their concerns and share experience and good practices.

Annex 1 - Agenda

Tuesday 7 September

Guiding Principles on internal displacement in Iraq: background and definition

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|---------------|--|
| 8:30 – 9:00 | Registration of participants |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Opening statements (by Dick Scott, Deputy Task Manager (Cluster 8) and Salim Ghydan, DG Legal Department) |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Presentation of agenda and participants (by NRC, Christophe Beau) |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Coffee Break |
| 10:15 – 11:15 | Introduction to the Guiding Principles & Definition of an Internally Displaced Person (by NRC) |
| 11:15 – 12:30 | Overview of the displacement crisis in Iraq (by World Vision, Mosul, Abbas M. Ali, IRC, Kerbala, Salwa Adil Safi and MoDM, Mustafa Moayad) |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Presentation of the Draft Strategic Plan for IDPs in Iraq (by UNHCR, Reena Ghelani) |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Practical challenges to define who is an IDP in Iraq (by UNOPS, Ivana Vuco) |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Legal Origins of the Guiding Principles (by NRC, Greta Zeender) |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee Break |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | National provisions protecting IDPs in Iraq (by Salim Ghydan, DG Legal Department) |

Wednesday 8 September

The cycle of internal displacement

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| 9:00 – 9:10 | Outcome of day 1 (by NRC, Greta Zeender) |
| 9:10 – 10:30 | Identifying major protection challenges for IDPs in Iraq in the light of the Guiding Principles (by NRC, Greta Zeender) |

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| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Identifying major protection challenges for IDPs in Iraq in the light of the Guiding Principles (continued) |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Designing programmes to prevent new displacement and protect the displaced (by the Danish Refugee Council, Marina Cremonese) |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 16:00 | Identifying obstacles/challenges to achieve durable solutions for the displaced in the light of the Guiding Principles (by NRC, Christophe Beau) |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee Break |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | Supporting self-reliance in return and resettlement areas (by FAO, A. Lakis Papastavrou) |

Thursday 9 September

Property restitution and coordination

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| 9:00 – 9:10 | Quiz on the Guiding Principles (by NRC, Christophe Beau) |
| 9:10 – 10:30 | Property restitution laws & mechanisms, practice in Iraq (by Brian Ericksen, Senior Consultant, US Mission in Iraq) |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | National mechanisms and programmes to address IDPs needs during displacement and return (by Iraqi authorities) |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | UN/NGO coordination on internal displacement (by Cluster 8, Dick Scott, IOM) |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee Break |
| 15:30 – 16:30 | Conclusions (by NRC) |
| 16:30 | Closing of workshop (by Iraqi authorities) |

Annex 2- Workshop participants

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